



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

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The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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The Biggest Botanical Garden of Sri Lanka at Hambantota

Sri Lanka's first-ever botanical gardens in the dry zone, soon to be the largest in the island, is now being developed at a 300-acre site at Mirijjawila, Hambantota. On the Suriyawewa-Hambantota Road, the Gardens is aimed at conserving the massive green patch and bio diversity in the area, according to National Botanical Gardens Department Director General Dr. Cyril Wijesundara. He told the Business Times that this space will be like Central Park in New York, on completion, and pave the way to attract both domestic and foreign tourists to



this southern town, fast turning out to be a hub of the south with the development of air and seaports and other facilities. This is the country's first new botanical gardens built in Sri Lanka in 130 years after the Senarathgoda Garden in Gampaha in 1876, and the Peradeniya Gardens long before that.

Experience of running the national botanical gardens of Peradeniya and Hakgala has demonstrated the business case for tourism, with



both gardens being profitable. The new Dry Zone Garden will follow this established, and tried and tested pattern.

Mrs. Seema Illahi Baloch, The New High Commissioner (Designate) of Pakistan to Sri Lanka

The Government of Pakistan designates Ms. Seema Illahi Baloch, as Pakistan High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

Ms. Seema Illahi Baloch is a career diplomat of Pakistan Foreign Service and currently serving as Pakistan Ambassador to Poland. She has joined the Foreign Service in 1977, had held important appointments such as Director General, Director and Deputy Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.



Ms Baloch holds the distinction of being the second most senior Ambassador out of the current fourteen Lady Ambassadors in the Pakistan Foreign Service.



Pakistan High Commission Celebrated 70th National Day in Colombo

Pakistan-Sri Lanka ties have always been strong, robust and reliable, through increased interaction at the highest political level and in the people-to-people domain. Very successful representation in trade activities by delegations from the two countries have reinforced bilateral trade with healthy increases in the volume of trade between the nations, says Ms. Mariam Saeed, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, issuing a message on the National Day of Pakistan.



Ms. Saeed also points out that the bilateral relations between the countries can, under the overarching umbrella of SAARC, help promote a brighter and integrated future for all the peoples of South Asia.

The following is the full text of the Acting High Commissioner's message:

"On the occasion of the National Day of Pakistan, it is with great pleasure that I convey the greetings and best wishes of the Government and people of Pakistan to the Government and people of Sri Lanka

Availing of this opportunity, I wish to extend to the people of Sri Lanka, its leadership and the government of His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, continued progress, prosperity and peace in the years ahead.

The Society of Asian Civilisations honours a Decade of Civilisation Award for former High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan

General C S Weerasooria



As the decision made by a Special Award Committee of the Society of Asian Civilisations of Pakistan, former High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Pakistan, General C S Weerasooria was honoured with a Diplomat Award.

The organizing committee appreciated former High Commissioner's contribution to develop the interests of the organization and his keenness to improve the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On the request made by the former High Commissioner, Mr M H M N Bandara, the Minister-Counsellor of the Sri Lanka High Commission received the Diplomat Award and Certificate on his behalf during the presentation ceremony was held on 23 March 2010 at the Islamabad Club.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SRI LANKA - VISIT TO SIALKOT

The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody visited Sialkot on an invitation extended by the Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan on 22 March 2010. He visited the following places.



Mr Mohamed Zubair, Chairman and Mohamed Umer, Secretary General of the Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association received the High Commissioner at their factory and discussed trade opportunities in Sri Lanka in the field of surgical instruments. The High Commissioner was hosted for a lunch reception by the Association.

In addition, the High Commissioner paid an observation tour of ACELIN and BARNA Sports in Sialkot, who are making the hand made cricket leather balls for the international market. Mr Muhammad Aslam, Chief Executive of ACELIN and Mr Mubeen, Chief Executive of BARNA explained to the High Commissioner the procedure of turning out hand made cricket leather balls by their team.



Haputale, the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka

Central Highlands of Sri Lanka Situated at 193 km from Colombo on the Colombo - Kandy - Nanu Oya (Close to Nuwara Eliya - Little England) - Badulla road & railway line

H a p u t a l e G a p
Haputale Gap is one of the most spectacular views in the country. The great amphitheatre of the upper Uva

Poonagala and Nuwara Eliya. On the other side is an equally breathtaking view & the foothills of the lower Uva, the southern Sabaragamuwa followed up Southern Province right down to the sea. On a bright and cloudless day, one could see the ocean as a bright blue line in the distance, disclosing the stabbing rays of the little lighthouse of Hambantota, far south.

sits Haputale at an elevation of 1579 m (4736 ft). Lying along a mountain ridge of the southern edge of the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka, Haputale is one of the most spectacularly situated towns of Sri Lanka.



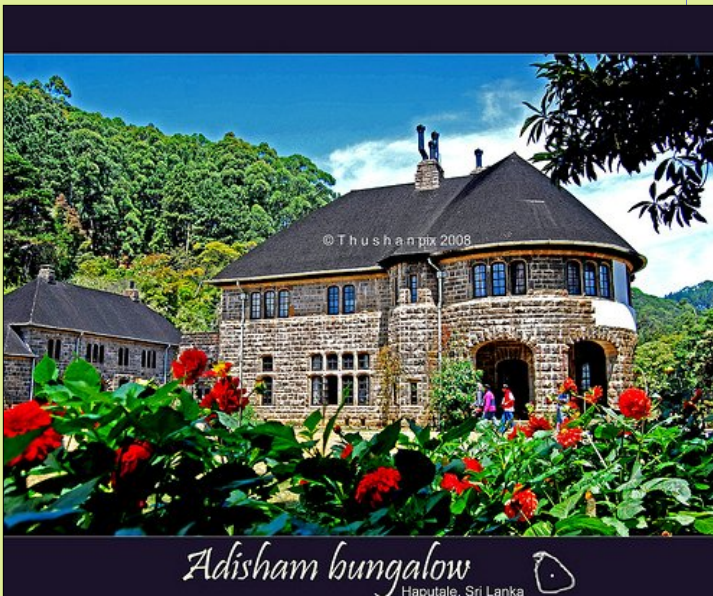
The high elevation vantage location of Haputale allows us bird's eye view to the north as well as to the south.

spreads out to the north and east. It is bounded by the

A walk in the surrounding hills

As we walk down the main street from the Station Road crossing, again we witness the apparent disappearance of the road off the cliff. The terrain being similar to magnificent paradise village Ella, the hill station of Haputale provides us the pleasure of walking, hiking & trekking in the surrounding hills. The highlight is the tranquil Lipton's Seat bringing in a panoramic view that sweeps you off the feet. While hiking you wouldn't miss the famous tea factory, old country mansion of Adhisham & Dyaluma Falls.

To the south are plains that run into the coast. To the north are hills after hills, hills next to hills, hills over the hills of the highlands: that's a glorious sight. Arrival into the town by car, the sudden descent is startling.



Adisham bungalow
Haputale, Sri Lanka

Victorian heritage

A little distance off the town, some of the tea plantations are geared to welcome the tourists. The colonial heritage of Ceylon is brought to life by St. Andrew's, neo-Gothic church located just north of the town along the main road Haputale-Bandarawela. The graveyard of the church takes solace in providing the final resting places to the illustrious British tea planters.

The bend of the road leading to the town is so acute, you would feel like the car is about to airborne over the cliff.

mountains of Idalgashinna, Ohiya and the Horton Plains National Park, the peaks of Hakgala (Hakgala Botanical Gardens is located there), the purple cone of Namunukula, and



Dambatenna Tea Factory

East of Haputale, a 10 km scenic road along the edge of the escarpment through beautiful rambling tea estates leads us to legendary Dambatenna.

Tea Factory, built in 1890 by **Sir Thomas Lipton**, the tea magnate whose name is immortalized in Lipton's Tea. The colonial Dambatenna Tea Factory brings in an unmistakable message of philanthropy in addition to the efficient industry: the workers' quarters of the famous factory accommodates over



4,000 people; the 20,000 sq ft factory employee 1,600 workers. At the entrance is a quote from John Ruskin: "Quality is no accident. It is the result of intelligent effort." In spite of the on-going modernization, some of the machinery of the colonial era is still in operation in this ISO certified factory. The first estate that Lipton bought in Ceylon was known as Downall Group in Haputale & included Estates Dambatenna, Llay.

Lipton's Tea

Mostatte & Monarakande. In his memoirs, he wrote, "between the Estate I had bought & the big sum of money I left with my agent I think I must have invested

well over a 100,000 pounds in *Ceylon* within a week of my arrival in that *lovely & delectable island of spicy breezes.*" **Lipton's Seat.**

Lipton's seat is the highest point of the mountain range, where the most

sign at the main gate reads 'Silence is Golden', a golden saying hardly adhered by the million mutinies of the modern world devoid of collective responsibility yet clamoring for individual rights.

famous Tea planter of Ceylon, Sir Thomas Lipton used to admire & enjoy the panoramic view served by Haputale. Although the 7km hike is tiresome, the arrival at one of the finest view points in the country-the famous double of famous *World's End* relaxes your tired feet & soothes your nerves. One must rush in the early morning before the mists set in.

A very pleasant walk leads us to Greenfields Bio Plantations, 3 km from Dambetenna, one of the few organic tea producers in the country. We will have the opportunity to view a tour demonstration of the whole process involved.

Benedictine monastery of Addisham

A few kilometers from Haputale in Colombo - Kandy road is Benedictine monastery of Addisham. The

The old Colonial British planters' bungalow was converted into a monastery by an industrious team of monks with tons of stonework. The original bungalow was built by a Kentish gentleman, who having filled it with imported carpets, porcelain, furniture & glassware, even had an English chauffeur brought in for his Daimler. Today the monastery runs a domestic industry of food products such as jams & jellies from guavas & fruit cordials.

The monastery bordering the *Tangamalai bird sanctuary*, the garden is home to blue magpies, paradise flycatchers, green barbets, brilliant orange plumaged mini-verts hornbills, golden orioles & a host of other bird life.

Dear Reader

During your next tour to Sri Lanka I hope you will definitely visit Haputale to relish and delight in the beauty and freshness of the nature.